

person who stands a little apart from a battle has a clearer perception of its chances than those who are actually engaged in it. The writer feared that a fresh conviction was virtually inevitable, but he also felt that Mr. Cluer would do his best for his client, and that the ship, though it might well go down, would then at least do so with colours flying. But it was held imperative that a Queen's Counsel must be engaged, for it would be ridiculous to pit a stuff-gownsmen against the Solicitor-general! And so, after various delays and difficulties, as on the former occasion, the late Mr. Cock, Q. O., was retained, Mr. Cluer again being secured as junior counsel.

Henry Vizetelly and his trustees were still resolved to fight the case, after their own fashion; and by way of answering any charge of having broken the previous undertaking it was proposed that Ernest Vizetelly should give evidence respecting the recent expurgation of Zola's books. His father inquiring if he were prepared to do so, he immediately assented. He went further: he agreed to take, so far as the Zola volumes were concerned, at least the odium of this second affair on himself by assuming responsibility for what had been done. It was impossible for him to hesitate, — no son would hesitate to

shield his
father as far as might be possible,¹ — but
now that the
time has come to write of these matters he
owes it to
himself, and particularly to his children, to
point out that
the responsibility which he assumed was not
really his.
The expurgatory work he had accomplished
had been lim-

¹ Frank Yizetelly, on whom as one of the managers of the
"business the
summons was actually served, had offered to take full
liability for the sales,
but his father would not allow it.